

Claims

What is claimed is:

5 1. A suture anchoring device comprising:
 a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a
 first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first
 retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to
 an inner point of the first retaining member;
10 a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface
 and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane, the
 second retaining member having a holding means;
 a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken
 in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional
15 area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane;
 where the coupler joins the first retaining member to the second retaining
 member at the second surface and third surface;
 wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and
 non-coterminous.

20 2. A suture anchoring device comprising:
 a first retaining member having a first surface and a second surface;
 where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member
 having an opening that extends from the first surface to an inner point of the
25 first retaining member;
 a second retaining member having a third surface and a fourth
 surface; where the third surface lies in a second plane;

a coupler having an outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and third surface;
5 wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous.

3. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler.
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4. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the second surface to the first surface.
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5. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the holding means is a hook on the second retaining member.

6. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the second outer edge of the second retaining member further comprises a fifth surface and a sixth surface that lie nominally perpendicular to the third surface of the second retaining member, and the holding means is an opening extending from the fifth or sixth surface to within the second retaining member.
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7. The suture anchoring device of claim 6, where the opening further comprises an entrance and a rear surface and the width of the entrance is less than the width of the rear surface.
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8. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the coupler is a cylindrical member.

5 9. The suture anchoring device of claim 1 where the coupler is a helical member.

10 10. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is larger than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane

15 11. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane

20 12. The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is substantially the same as the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

13. The suture anchoring device of claim 1 where surfaces and corners are rounded

25 14. A method of securing a suture used in a surgical procedure comprising the steps of:

(a) locating a suture anchoring device in the proximity of a suture site, the suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to at least partially through the second surface to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane, the second retaining member having a holding means;

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and third surface;

wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous;

- (b) introducing the suture into said opening;
- (c) wrapping the suture around the third outer edge of the coupler;
- and
- (d) introducing the suture into the holding means.